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Newspaper Clippings Related to Ft. Des Moines

Thomas Montgomery Gregory

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Negroes Join Officers Military Training Camp to Prove Their Race Capable of Leading Men in Army

To the average American citizen, the entrance of this country into the world war spells tragedy, but to the 1200 negroes at Fort Des Moines, undergoing training to become army officers, this self same war has opened the door of opportunity.

For the first time the negro is to be given a chance to prove his capacity for military leadership, and he is making the most of it.

The thing that soon impresses the visitor to the camp is the intensity with which the men enter into the work. As R. B. De Frantz, secretary of the colored Y. M. C. A. at the fort, expresses it:

"Every man feels that he must make good; not for himself alone, but for his country and his race."

Who Started Move.

The idea of a negro training camp was first advanced by a white man, Joel E. Spinzern, president of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored Race. It was taken up and pushed by several negro organizations, including a committee of 100, headed by Rev. J. Milton Waldron of Washington, D. C.

Dr. George W. Cabaniss, also of Washington, who was chairman of the publicity committee, is at the training camp doing volunteer service with the army Y. M. C. A. Because of his age, he is not taking training, but it is possible that he will take the examination to qualify him for medical work at some cantonment.

Deserves Credit.

Doctor Cabaniss was one of the committee of five who, thru the agency of Secretary Tumulty, succeeded in getting the matter before the president at a critical juncture, and deserves no small credit for the establishment of the negro training camp at Fort Des Moines.

Other men at the camp who helped to overcome the strong opposition of the War Department are Prof. Thomas A. Gregory, chairman of the national committee of negro college men, and E. Benjamin Curley, secretary of the same organization.



Right, Dr. George W. Cabaniss, who started negro training camp movement; left, Dr. Joseph H. Ward, who gave up lucrative practice to become army officer.

It was up to the advocates of the camp to prove that they could get a sufficient number of negroes of the right caliber to justify its establishment, and they succeeded. That they have not failed in their promises is shown by the fact that there are at least 500 college and university men at the camp, in addition to successful business men who have not had college training.

Send 200 Students.

Howard University of Washington, D. C., has sent 200 students and 100

members of its alumni to the camp, and university men from almost every state north of the Mason and Dixon line are to be found. Harvard is represented by 15 or 20 graduates. A dozen university instructors are taking training and physicians, lawyers and dentists are in every company.

But to secure so many representatives of the highest type of the race much sacrifice has been necessary. Most of these men have given up well established professional and business

careers as well as home and family. **Doctor Ward Trains Here.**

A typical example is that of Dr. Joseph H. Ward of Indianapolis, Ind., who left his wife and two children, a profitable medical practice, and his private surgical sanitarium, from patriotic reasons alone. Doctor Ward, who is 44 years of age, has practiced surgery for 18 years, has been city school inspector in Indianapolis for eight years, and is chairman of the finance committee of the Indianapolis branch of the Y. M. C. A., the foremost organization of its kind in the world.

"This is a history making period and I want to be connected with it," was the simple explanation offered by Doctor Ward for giving up a life of comparative ease to toil with pick and shovel on the rifle range and take long hikes under a boiling July sun.

The work has been very hard for many of the civilian negroes but they are gradually getting hardened to it. Col. C. C. Ballou, the officer in command of the camp, gives the men 10 hours' work a day, and most of the evenings are devoted to study.

A baseball league and a motion picture machine furnish recreation for the men. Picture shows are given Saturday and Sunday evenings.

In addition to the civilians, many of the negroes at the camp have seen service, some in Mexico and some in the Philippines. One man, W. Bazil, spent 12 years in the British army, going thru the Boer and Ashantie wars in Africa.

Colonel Ballou is pleased with the progress made by the men and their amenability to discipline. Tho the camp has been established but three weeks, he does not hesitate to say:

"A large number of these men will make officers."

The

DEDICATE Y TENT

AT FT. DES MOINES

Colonel Ballou Tells of Great Opportunity That Has Come to Colored Race.

Fort Des Moines' army Y. M. C. A. at the officers' training camp for Negro soldiers dedicated its new home last night with a program of speeches by officers and leaders of the camp. Col. C. C. Ballou, the commanding officer, was the chief speaker of the evening. Besides Colonel Ballou, Dr. G. W. Cabaniss, Negro physician from Washington, D. C., W. W. Gethman, Y. M. C. A. secretary for all the army camps in the middle western states, and R. H. DeFrantz, local secretary at the fort, spoke.

Colonel Ballou spoke on the subject, "The Function of This Camp." He said in part: "The army branch of the Y. M. C. A. has become almost a part of the army. Its usefulness has been so thoroughly demonstrated that there is never the slightest hesitancy on the part of any authority in affording it the fullest facilities for the discharge of its important functions.

Welcomed As Assistant.

"On the contrary, it is welcomed as a valuable assistant in the promotion of the contentment, sobriety and morality, and therefore of the discipline and efficiency of the soldier. This importance is so fully recognized by me, and by my superiors, that I included the fact of the establishment of the Y. M. C. A. in connection with this training camp in my telegraphic reports to department and army headquarters. It is well that you, who are possible future officers of the army, should note the functions and results of this institution; and that both here and elsewhere you should contribute by every proper means to the development of its influence and success. And when you become responsible for the well being and efficiency of soldiers, bear in mind the methods and the results of the Y. M. C. A."

Equal Chance to Negro.

Colonel Ballou then took up the question of the organization of the country into sixteen divisions with a complete army to be raised from each. There was to be located in each section of the country an officers' training camp to train the leaders of the troops to be raised.

"Then came the question of the part the colored race was to play. Constituting more than 10 per cent of our population, could we realize in it a national asset of 10 per cent of the men we would call to arms? This would mean nearly 50,000 under the first call. The existence of this camp proves that the superior authorities decided to utilize this asset in the fullest sense. The colored man is not only to be drawn to the camp in proportionate to the number of his race, but he would also be trained with the

ING. JUNE 24, 1917.



Old timers at the fishing game about Clear lake say fishing was never better than it is this year. Their statements are verified by the above photograph of Mrs. Joe Davis Pirtle of Des Moines holding up a 6-pound pickerel, 30 inches long, which she caught in this lake last week. Large catches are reported daily, and among the game fish are included black bass, silver bass, perch, pickerel, pike and crappies.

white man to prove his fitness for the exercise of the higher and more responsible duties of leadership and command.

Real Test to Come.

"Whatever may have been in the minds of those who made this decision, the result is that there was precipitated and centered in this training camp at Fort Des Moines, the further decision as to whether or not the colored race is capable of successfully enduring this test of its fitness for this most important duty of citizenship and franchise.

"Here are assembled representative colored men from east, west, north and south, to prove or to disprove their fitness for the responsible duties of command. These duties require more than patriotism and personal courage. They require extended technical military knowledge; trained judgment in handling men under the varying conditions of camp and field; high standards of truth and honor; exceptional qualifications as an instructor of soldiers and administrator of all the affairs upon which depend their contentment, health, discipline and military efficiency; and also that important and intangible quality that is expressed in the term 'leadership.' These qualities you must develop and possess if you are to command the confidence and best efforts of soldiers. They must see in you one who always looks out for the welfare of his men, and secures it, and the one who is trusted to accomplish a result with a minimum of effort and limb. Physical strength, moral courage, business and obedience are a few of the

attributes you must possess to attain success."

Tells of Opportunity.

R. H. DeFrantz, formerly national secretary of the colored Y. M. C. A. of the United States, and who gave up his position in order to take up the work at Fort Des Moines, spoke on "The Opportunity." He reviewed the achievements of his race from early history to the present day, and said:

"By this act we have become a definite factor in the greatest conflict the world has ever known. White people of the Americas, black people of Africa are looking this way eagerly awaiting the result of this camp, an American military opportunity to its Negro citizens, the making, as it were overnight, leaders of citizen soldiers for the defense and propagation of the principles of democracy.

"The sending of this memorable order throughout the country awakened the thoughtful Negro to the responsibility devolving upon the race—to reach up to the high standard of the leader of fighting men. They, with the peoples of the world are anxiously awaiting news from this camp and praying that we make good; that the opportunity given shall be fully grasped. Before leaving your homes and loved ones and friends you were importuned not to fail."

The invocation was given by the Rev. G. W. Robinson of Des Moines. Singing by the audience and the dedicatory prayer by the Rev. W. E. Lee of Des Moines, concluded the program.

The association is at present housed in a large canvas tent south of the parade grounds. A large wooden building will probably be started soon, according to the authorities of the state organization.

Training of Negroes 10

BY VICTOR H. SHULTZ.

TWELVE hundred Negroes, from every corner of the United States, 40 per cent of them with college educations, 40 per cent professional men of high standing, 10 per cent with business training and 10 per cent soldiers from the regular army colored regiments, will complete tomorrow their first week of training drill at Fort Des Moines in preparation for officers' positions in the twenty-five Negro regiments to be raised by the selective draft law.

"Yes, sir, this is some job, making officers out of these fellows in three months," said one husky sergeant who had been a private in the regular army. "You can't give these tender young college boys orders just any old way, you gotta be careful. No, now, don't put that in the paper under my name; it might hurt these fellows' feelings. Why, they think they're tough!" And the big soldier laughed heartily.

Fourteen Companies Formed.

Fourteen companies, each occupying a building with its officers, have been formed, and have been drilling hours every day for the past week learning formation drill, rifle discipline, signal practice and all the manuals of the army that they could assimilate in twenty-four hours of study and discussion. The men have been eating, sleeping and living army regulations.

For the war department has decided that henceforth Negro soldiers of the United States army shall be officered by men of their own race, and to this end has gathered together what is expected to be a sufficient number of capable men who, with training, will be able to command the troops when they reach France.

And they are eager to go, too. "We're only afraid that the war'll be over before we get there," said Sergt. George A. Holland, who was served almost twenty years in the regular army as regimental supply sergeant of the Twenty-fourth infantry, colored. Sergeant Holland stands 6 feet tall, and weighs at the present date 238 pounds. He outranks all other supply sergeants in the country, and has only been prevented from climbing higher because of the rule that only white officers shall command Negro troops in the regular army. But all that is changed now, and the sergeant may become a captain, or even a colonel, perhaps, in the conscripted army.

Proud of His Rookies.

"Fine bunch of men?" said the sergeant, in reply to a question. "Yes, sir. Why, in my company alone, this morning when they called for all the doctors and dentists to step out of the ranks, I found five who had been practicing medicine in Georgia. We have two undertakers and nearly all of our men are graduates or have been students of the colleges in Georgia."

Company 7, of which the sergeant was speaking, is made up exclusively of men from the state of Georgia. As far as was practicable the fort commanders placed the men from different sections of the country in the same companies. There is one company that includes men from Washington, D. C. In this company the great majority are from the famous Howard university for Negroes. It is estimated that Company 3 has 95 per cent of its membership from Howard.

Col. Ballou Popular.

Colonel Ballou, in command of the camp, is a good humored officer who is known by his men as an easy man to get acquainted with, and a sympathetic listener to all their troubles. But he is a strict disciplinarian. He has orders to make

the Negroes as good officers as possible in three months, and he's trying to do it.

"Yes, we are paying all of them \$100 per month," he said in answer to a question. "and," he added with a twinkle in his eye, "we're making them earn it."

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Colonel Ballou says that Pershing was a serious, energetic cadet, rather older than the average, who devoted practically all his time to military studies. The only story the colonel will tell of his classmate was an incident that occurred after Pershing had graduated, when he was a lieutenant in the Sixth cavalry. Pershing was riding through an Indian reservation one day, when he came across a group of resident redskins discussing one of their number, who was present, a noted athlete. The athletic fellow saw Pershing and told his friends that he would like to wrestle the white officer.

"Pershing told him he was too dirty for a white man to touch," said Colonel Ballou. "And the Indian replied that he would then run a race with the pale-face, and if Pershing could keep in front he wouldn't be bothered by the dirt. The Indian so ob-

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from Belgium and the battle of the Marne that the allies realized the great importance of aviation. Between August 15 and 25 the French general staff thought that the greater part of the German army was concentrated in Alsace and that only a few army corps were coming through Belgium. It was only through the reports of the aviators that they realized that this was a mistake and that almost the whole of the German army was invading Belgium.

"Immediately after the battle of the Marne the greatest efforts were made in France to develop the aviation corps in every possible way. The English army, then in process of formation, profited by the experience of the French. Since that time the allied as well as the German aviation corps has grown constantly.

"A modern army is incomplete if it has not a strong aviation corps. All the different services are obliged to turn to the aviation corps for help in their work. An army without airplanes is like a soldier without eyes. An army which has the superiority in aviation over its adversary will have the following advantages:

"It will have constantly the latest information on the movements of the enemy. In this way, no concentration of troops will be ignored and no surprise attack will be possible. The attack against the enemy positions will be rendered easier because all the details of these positions will be thoroughly known beforehand. The artillery fire will be much more accurate. Many enemy machines will be

Tells of

Training of Negroes for Army Officers

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Colonel Ballou believes that one temporary injustice was remedied by an order he received from the war department recently fixing the

pay of regular army privates at the same amount paid the civilian candidates for officers' positions, \$100 per month. The regular army men had been receiving the same pay given them when they were in the ranks, which was from a third to a half of what the remainder of the camp was getting.

Of the regular army colored soldiers at the fort 109 were assigned from the Ninth cavalry and Twenty-

fifth infantry, now stationed in the Philippines. The infantry contingent, numbering about eighty, arrived yesterday.

May Be Medical Camp.

Colonel Ballou announced that the recommendation had gone in to the war department mentioning Fort Des Moines as the most likely place for the location of the training camp for Negro medical officers. Approximately 100 medical men will be trained at the local post if the department decides to locate the camp here, and the work will begin at once, so as to have the medical men in shape to accompany the colored troops now training at the Fort. With the exception of two or three officers, all the doctors will be colored practitioners. Colonel Ballou said that the location of the medical school might mean that Fort Des Moines would later be made a base hospital for the Camp Dodge cantonment.

The army Y. M. C. A. has located at the Fort and is doing a big business. Last night they dedicated their big canvas tent, and Colonel Ballou, W. W. Gethman, in charge of the army camps for the national association, and R. H. Frantz, secretary at the Fort, and for a number of years national secretary for the colored Y. M. C. A., made speeches. Every day the men gather in the tent when not on duty and much of their camp life surrounds the association home. There are desks, with writing paper and ink, for writing home; there are chairs and a platform for speakers' and singers' programs, and a piano and victrola were recently installed. A number of good singers have been found among the men and nightly programs by quartets and soloists are a feature of the camp life.

Originator of Camp Here.

Among the men at the camp are a number of representatives of some of the best colored families of the nation. There is Dr. G. W. Ca-

baniss of Washington, D. C., who is one of the leaders of his race, and who was one of the committee of 100 who conceived the idea of training Negro officers for Negro troops and visited President Wilson with a plan that was afterward carried out by the war department. That is why the camp was founded, and Dr. Cabaniss, who is not a soldier himself, goes about among the soldiers of his race with confidence in their ability to make good.

Then there are bankers, lawyers and doctors galore. One man, T. J. Ewing, who is having some difficulty in training down to regulation weight, was for ten years a banker in Vicksburg, Miss., and is a law graduate of Walden university at Nashville, Tenn. He was practicing law when he heard of the camp provided for patriotic Negroes, and decided that he would come north to train for service.

Only Three Rejected.

Only three candidates have been rejected by the physical examiners at the fort. One because he was too big, and two because they were too small. The man who was overweight tipped the scales at 260 pounds, and in spite of his record as captain of the Forty-eighth volunteer infantry in the Spanish-American war he had to be turned down.

The men are training for the same service that their white brothers at Fort Snelling and the several other officers' training camps are training for, and their life and work differs but little from the men in those camps. If people who have friends at Fort Snelling wish to learn of the life their friends are leading in the northern camp, let them visit Fort Des Moines for a day and they will find not only the same kind of men, educated and experienced, but the same kind of camp routine. Every Negro at the fort is a man of intelligence and imagination and he realizes that the opportunity for his race to make good has come. He does not war to fail.

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viously had the lieutenant in a hole that Pershing either had to race him or acknowledge that he was afraid to do so. So the officer dismounted, saying to his Indian companion, an interpreter, that 'he believed he could whip that beggar if his ankle held out.'

"The course they were to run was triangular with the corners marked out by stakes. The Indian won the toss, and taking the pole, started off in the lead. As they neared the second stake, Pershing made a spurt as if to pass the red man, who sprinted so fast that he passed the corner mark and was not able to check himself in time to make the turn. So Pershing, who had slowed down, cut in, and passing his opponent, took the lead. But as they neared the finish his ankle did give way, and he fell, but rolled over the line. A brother officer of Pershing, who was one of the judges, decided that it was a draw but the Indian judge, who was something of a sport, called the race a victory for Pershing. And the Indian was re-named with a cognomen that in his language means 'The athlete-who-was-beaten-in-a-foot-race-by-the-white-man-crawling.'"

KELLY MILLER

The Negro's Appeal

ADDRESS TO PRESIDENT WILSON BY KELLY MILLER OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY.

Mr. President, Negroes all over this nation are aroused as they have never been before. It is not the wild hysterics of the hour, but a determined purpose that this country shall be made a safe place for American citizens to live and work and enjoy the pursuit of happiness. Ten thousand speechless men and women marched in silent array down Fifth avenue in New York City as a spectral demonstration against the wrongs and cruelties heaped upon the race. Negro women all over the nation have appointed a day of prayer in order that righteousness might be done to his people. The weaker sex of the weaker race are praying that God may use you as the instrument of his will to promote the cause of human freedom at home. I attended one of these 6 o'clock prayer meetings in the city of Washington. Two thousand humble women snatched the early hours of the morning before going to their daily tasks to resort to the house of prayer. They literally performed unto the Lord the burden of their prayer and song, "Steal Away to Jesus." There was not a note of bitterness nor denunciation throughout the season of prayer. They prayed, as their mothers prayed in the darker days gone by, that God would deliver the race. Mr. President, you can help God answer their prayer. May it not be that these despised and rejected daughters of a despised and rejected race shall yet lead the world to its knees in acknowledgment of some controlling power outside of the machinations of man? As I sat there and listened in reverent silence to these two thousand voices as they sang,—

"On Christ, the solid rock, I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand—"

I could not but think of the godless war which is now convulsing the world—a war in which Christian hands are dyed in Christian blood. It must cause the prince of peace to groan as in his dying agony when he gave up the ghost on the cross. The professed followers of the meek and lowly one, with heathen heart, are putting their trust in reeking tube and iron shard. God uses the humbler things of life to confound the mighty. It may be that these helpless victims of cruelty and outrage will bring an apostate world back to God.

Mr. President, ten million of your fellow citizens are looking to you and to the God whom you serve to grant them relief in this hour of their deepest distress. All mortal reforms grow out of the people who suffer and stand in need of them. The Negro's helpless position may yet bring America to a realizing sense that righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

YOUNG COLLEGE MEN SHOW PLUCK

Government Grants Training
Camp For Officers.

BIG VICTORY FOR THE RACE

Success of Patriotic Movement Led by
Group of Students and Backed by
Broad Minded Men and Women of
Both Races Has Significant Bearing
on Future of Colored Americans.

On Saturday, May 19, the war department authorized the establishment of an officers' reserve corps training camp for colored officers for the new federal army at Des Moines, Ia., to start June 15. The decision, which came as the result of persistent effort by students of Howard university, the central committee of Negro college men and many distinguished men and women of both races, is regarded by qualified opinion as the greatest opportunity for Negroes since the civil war.

The establishment of this camp marks a radical change in the policy of the American government. For years Negroes, with a few exceptions, have been excluded from holding official positions in the army and navy. West Point and Annapolis have been practically closed to them. One colored man after another has sought to secure training offered to other classes of American citizens, but no amount of democratic argument or political influence could convince the administration of the justice of such appeal.

The war, however, has brought a new situation. A crisis faces the country, and when conscription passed the questions immediately arose: How can colored men serve best their country? Shall they stand on the abstract theory of equal rights, or shall they with common sense meet a practical situation for the advancement of the race and the welfare of the nation?

Already fourteen camps have been established for the training of white officers. The war department has officially declared that it would be impractical to admit colored men to any of those camps, which would mean that the thousands of intelligent Negroes in the United States would be forced under the conscription bill to serve as privates with little possibility of opportunity to rise above noncommission-

Loyal to the cause of the Negro, believing in the principle of equality, but at the same time realizing that obstinacy is not firmness, when the government refused to open its camps to all its citizens a separate camp was sought as the next best thing for securing officers.

The Negro, ever ready and willing to serve his country, has been kept out of official positions too long. The time has come when he should occupy a place in our army and navy similar to that which he occupies in other spheres of American life, and it is believed that in effecting the training and equipping of one or two thousand officers the central committee of Negro college men has brought about a movement that will not only add to the brilliant records of Bunker Hill, San Juan and Carrizal, but will make the Negro in truth and in deed a fundamental part of the national life of the United States, a partner in the fight for a world democracy, establish Negro leadership on a stronger and firmer basis, belie the accusation that the Negro is fit for nothing else than a subordinate and pave the way for greater and higher things.

All young men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty, having high school education and physically strong, are requested to send their names, height, age, weight, previous military experience, if any, and school attended to the central committee of Negro college men, Howard university, Washington, C. B. Curley, general secretary.

Examining stations will be opened at all Young Men's Christian associations, from which applicants may forward their names to Secretary Curley as mentioned above. The leaders in the movement wish it understood that they do not accept the camp as segregation—they are wholly opposed to such discrimination—but they do accept it as a means to an end and as an opportunity for the 100,000 colored men to be chosen for war duty, to be officered by men of their own race. The camp accommodations and pay will be the same as those for white men. The railroad fare of those who go to the camp will be refunded.

DES MOINES, IA
P. E. DIST. IR

WASHINGTON BEE
AUGUST 4, 1917

COL. JOHNSTON HERE TO COMMISSION 625 NEGROES AT FT. D. M.

Approximately 625 commissions are to be issued to men of the Negro training school at Fort Des Moines before Wednesday night.

For the first time in the history of the American war department, commissions will be handed directly to the men instead of passing thru the war department.

Col. W. T. Johnston of the adjutant general's office arrived in Des Moines from Washington today to officially approve recommendations or commissions designated by a board of officers from the school and to hand out the commissions.

SIX NEGRO REGIMENTS.

There will be commissions enough to supply officers for six Negro regiments, says Colonel Johnston. Ninety-six officers are needed for each regiment. To make up for shortage, transfers and the like, about 103 commissioned officers will be turned out for each regiment.

Seven of the cantonments over the country are making up Negro regiments, Des Moines to be among them.

The officers commissioned at the Des Moines training school will be sent to these. The training school for Negro officers at the Fort Des Moines is the only one in the United States.

"Company commanders, temporarily named for training purposes, will read the names of the commissioned men probably late today or tomorrow," said Colonel Johnston. Approximately 150 men will not receive commissions. Arrangements are now being made and the adjutant of the post is sending out notification today to company commanders to immediately release those from service who do not obtain commissions. This will be done so that the men may return at once to their homes."

Lieutenant Colonel Hunt of the Twenty-third U. S. infantry, is assisting Colonel Johnston in the work of making up the list of commissions.

Colonel Johnston came to Des Moines several years ago to take examinations for commission in the Sixth cavalry. He has never been stationed in Des Moines. He was here six years ago to attend a military tournament of soldiers from Iowa and Kansas.

In addition to giving out the commissions, recommended by the board, he has the power to assign the men to the seven cantonments.

THE TRAINING CAMP

NEGROES JOIN OFFICERS' MILITARY TRAINING CAMP TO PROVE THEIR RACE CAPABLE OF LEADING MEN IN ARMY.

From Des Moines News, July 22, 1917.

To the average American citizen, the entrance of this country into the world war spells tragedy, but to the 1200 negroes at Fort Des Moines, undergoing training to become army officers, this self same war has opened the door of opportunity.

For the first time the negro is to be given a chance to prove his capacity for military leadership, and he is making the most of it.

The thing that soon impresses the visitor to the camp is the intensity with which the men enter into the work. As R. B. De Frantz, secretary of the colored Y. M. C. A. at the fort, expresses it:

Every man feels that he must make good; not for himself alone, but for his country and race."

Who Started Move.

The idea of a negro training camp was first advanced by a white man, Joel E. Spizern, president of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored Race. It was taken up and pushed by several negro organizations, including a committee of 100, headed by Rev. J. Milton Waldron of Washington, D. C.

Dr. George W. Cabaniss, also of Washington, who was chairman of the publicity committee, is at the training camp doing volunteer service with the army Y. M. C. A. Because of his age, he is not taking training, but it is possible that he will take the examination to qualify him for medical work at some cantonment.

Deserves Credit.

Doctor Cabaniss was one of the committee of five, who, thru the agency of Secretary Tumulty, succeeded in getting the matter before the president at a critical juncture, and deserves no small credit for the establishment of the negro training camp at Fort Des Moines.

Other at the camp who helped to overcome the strong opposition of the War Department are Prof. Thomas A. Gregory, chairman of the national committee of negro college men, and E. Benjamin Curley, secretary of the same organization.

It was up to the advocates of the camp to prove that they could get a sufficient number of negroes of the right caliber to justify its establishment, and they succeeded. That they have not failed in their promises is shown by the fact that there are at least 500 college and university men at the camp, in addition to successful business men who have not had college training.

Send 200 Students.

Howard University of Washington, D. C., has sent 200 students and 100 members of its alumni to the camp, and university men from almost every state north of the Mason and Dixon line are to be found. Harvard is represented by 15 or 20 graduates. A dozen university instructors are taking training and physicians, lawyers and dentists are in every company.

But to secure so many representatives of the highest type of the race much sacrifice has been necessary. Most of these men have given up well established professional and business careers as well as home and family.

Doctor Ward Trains Here.

A typical example is that of Dr. Joseph H. Ward of Indianapolis, Ind., who left his wife and two children, a profitable medical practice, and his patriotic reasons alone. Doctor Ward, who is 44 years of age, has practiced surgery for 18 years, has been city school inspector in Indianapolis for eight years, and is chairman of the finance committee of the Indianapolis branch of the Y. M. C. A., the foremost organization of its kind in the world.

"This is a history making period and I want to be connected with it," was the simple explanation offered by Doctor Ward for giving up a life of comparative ease to toll with pick and shovel on the rifle range and take long hikes under a blazing July sun.

The work has been very hard for many of the civilian negroes but they are gradually getting hardened to it. Col. C. C. Ballou, the officer in command of the camp, gives the men 10 hours' work a day, and most of the evenings are devoted to study.

A baseball league and a motion picture machine furnish recreation for the men. Picture shows are given Saturday and Sunday evenings.

In addition to the civilians, many of the negroes at the camp have seen service, some in Mexico and some in the Philippines. One man, W. Basil, spent 12 years in the British army, going thru the Boer and Ashantie wars in Africa.

Colonel Ballou is pleased with the progress made by the men and their amenability to discipline. Tho the camp has been established but three weeks, he does not hesitate to say:

"A large number of these men will make officers."